

*There is*  
**Nothing British**  
*about the BNP*



## The BNP's 2010 Manifesto

Nothing British's response

## Key points

- The BNP remain a race obsessed party. Their manifesto contains an ominous reference to a “long-term resettlement programme” for third world nationals (pg 20), a clause-28 proscription against “the promotion of racial integration in schools and the media” (pg 22) remains party policy, and there is an even a suggestion that the BNP regards all immigration since 1997 as invalid, needing to be ‘reviewed’ (pg 16).
- We expected the BNP to significantly row back on their more extreme, absurd and authoritarian policies in this manifesto in order to try and appear more moderate to the general public. Instead, the vast majority of their platform remain the same. The BNP still want to legalise guns (pg 41). They still want to censor popular television shows (pg 45). The media is still to be put under greater “democratic ... control” (pg 43) and the death penalty brought back (pg 48).
- The BNP is trying to incite mass anti Muslim bigotry. Not only will the burka and further mosques be banned but as “Islam is by its very nature incompatible with... western democracy... Islamic immigration [must] be halted and reversed” (pg 30).
- There seems to be a hole of at minimum £80 bn in the BNP’s numbers. The manifesto contains expensive new plans for schools, hospitals and the military, and commitments to cut income tax, council tax, VAT, student loans, car and fuel tax, while all at the same time claiming to eliminate the deficit.
- The BNP have attempted to hide the effects the policies would have on ordinary voters, claiming that they can deliver tax cuts without corresponding raises or spending cuts elsewhere. This is simply not credible. The BNP’s plans would reverse the benefits globalisation has brought, limiting trade and attacking supermarkets, increase the cost of the weekly bills, and raise the possibility of violent crime through putting more guns on the street.

## 1.1 What is the BNP's strategy?

Nick Griffin faces the same difficult balancing act as any other party leader, having to position his party for the mainstream while making sure not to leave his activist base behind. In his case, he wants the public to believe his modernisation programme had continued in the wake of the amendment of the BNP constitution, while simultaneously avoiding any further cries of betrayal from his key supporters.

In order to achieve these two conflicting goals what changes he's made have been largely cosmetic. Controversial policies such as the legalisation of fire arms or a clause-28 restriction on discussing racial integration haven't been dropped, only downplayed. There seems to be no backing away from the long term dream of a return to a white 'indigenous' Briton.

However, in order to prevent the media from talking about this, he has tried instead focus the agenda on areas he feels more confident the public will sympathise with him: Islamic extremism, climate change and the war in Afghanistan.

## 1.2 The manifesto's central themes

- **Standing up for indigenous Britons.** The BNP have their own distorted multiculturalist views in which 'white Britons' are an endangered minority, in need of protection from assimilation from overwhelming levels of immigration. Throughout their manifesto the BNP are keen to argue that high levels of immigration are responsible for many of the problems facing Britain: from shortages in the public services and housing provision to environmental pollution and increase levels of crime.
- **Bring back our troops.** The BNP are keen to pose as an anti war party, believing that this will resonate well with their target vote. However, their anti war attitude has very different roots than that say of the Liberal Democrats. Fundamentally, the BNP believes that nations of a different culture should stay apart from each other, and it is this isolationist view that leads them to believe that Britain should not become involved in foreign wars. The other implication however, is that neither should the Islamic world in any way become involved or submerged into Britain. The BNP wants to see Muslim immigration not just stopped, but reversed.
- **No hard choices on spending.** The BNP's lazy populism is nowhere seen more clearly than in their lazy attitude towards tax and spend. While other parties are forced to make difficult choices about their priorities in the face of Britain's record deficit, the BNP likes to pretend that the only cuts are those already popular: benefits to 'scroungers' and 'foreigners', waste, and spending on the EU and global warming.

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- **The BNP are tough on crime, not ‘politically correct’.** Only the BNP, they claim, is prepared to be truly tough on the problems in our society: it will bring back capital and corporal punishment, restore civility to our public life and bring back decency in our media. Unfortunately for the BNP, it is not just ‘political correctness’ which separates them from the mainstream. There remains a strong homophobic and misogynist streak within the BNP activist base, while their support for guns remains extremely unpopular in the public at large.
- **The only party to take a stand against global warming.** The BNP are keen to ride the anti climate change bandwagon, believing that like the expenses crisis it gives them a dividing line between an out of touch elite and the population as a whole. What they are less keen to talk about is their own apocalyptic beliefs in a coming Peak Oil crisis, where the world will be thrown into mass economic turmoil once fossil fuels have run out. The BNP’s attacks on energy taxes are little more than populist hypocrisy; if the party were seriously worried about a coming energy crisis then they too would find themselves recommending extra taxation on fuel.

## 1.3 What the manifesto tries to downplay

- **Their long term plan to restore a ‘white Britain’.** While the general public are worried about the high levels of recent immigration to Britain, they do not share the BNP’s ideology of ‘indigenous Britons’. To the public, Trevor McDonald is just as British as David Dimbleby, Lewis Hamilton as Jenson Button – but to the BNP there remains a key difference.

As minorities have statistically higher numbers of children than average, Britain is likely to become less white over time and to the BNP, this is a demographic disaster. It is for this reason that more even than stopping immigration, repatriation remains central to their long term plans.

- **Their regressive tax plans.** In our report *Britain under the BNP* we revealed how the BNP’s ambition to abolish income tax would mean raising the combined levels of tariffs and VAT to over 50%, hurting the working classes most of all. In this manifesto, the BNP have tried to reject this argument.

In contradiction to earlier interviews by Nick Griffin<sup>1</sup> they now claim that they would in fact reduce the rate of VAT to compensate for their new tariff regime. In addition, their £20 bn income tax cut could be paid for by “savings in bureaucracy” (pg 72).

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<sup>1</sup> Most explicitly at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aAtktgE6Cs> where Griffin concedes the need for higher levels of VAT

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While this is obviously not credible<sup>2</sup>, it should be noted that Griffin's long term aim is to abolish all income tax, which currently brings in to exchequer around £150 bn.<sup>3</sup> It is difficult to see how this can be achieved without corresponding rises in VAT or tariffs.

- **Their protectionist economics.** While a core BNP belief remains that Britain needs system of tariffs to protect and return Britain to its manufacturing past, they remain wary of spelling out the consequences to the shopping bills of ordinary families. The BNP are deliberately vague over the details, are keen to emphasise that tariffs will be used selectively and strategically, and suggest that the cost can be fully compensated to consumers through a cut in VAT rates.

This however does not tally with the BNP's frequent use of the Asian tigers as their chosen role model – following their historical policy, we would be looking at an effective rate of protection of between 30-70%.<sup>4</sup> In our previous report, we calculated that a midrange level of 40% would cost every consumer around £2700. Indeed, when pressed in interviews Griffin does admit (in contradiction of his manifesto) that his policy will lead to greater cost of goods, but suggest that this is a necessary evil in order to reduce unemployment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The only way to make the numbers work here is to suppose that the BNP intend to implement the complete abolition of the tax credits system. This of course would again hit hardest the ordinary families Griffin claims to represent.

<sup>3</sup> [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5651825/Benefit-payouts-will-exceed-income-tax-revenue.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5651825/Benefit-payouts-will-exceed-income-tax-revenue.html)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.allbusiness.com/public-administration/national-security-international/433259-1.html>

<sup>5</sup> Most recently on the Today Programme 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010

## 2.1 What's new in this manifesto?

- A commitment to review “all citizenship grants awarded since Labour entered government in 1997” (pg 4)
- A commitment to increase defence spending 1% above inflation for the next five years (pg 4)
- An increased focus on anti Muslim bigotry. *“Islam is by its very nature incompatible with... western democracy... Islamic immigration [must] be halted and reversed”* (pg 30). The BNP promises to ban the burka, ritual slaughter and the building of further mosques in Britain.
- An attempt to argue that the BNP’s various tax and spend plans can be “revenue neutral”, despite their massive proposed spending increases and tax cuts.
- A focus on climate change scepticism (pg 25)
- A ban on GM crops (pg 59)
- Various policies have been altered or downgraded:
  - The party is no longer committed to compulsory assault rifles in every home. However the party would “restore the right to bear arms encapsulated in the 1688 Declaration of Rights (pg 41)
  - The personal income tax allowance would now only be raised to £12,500 (pg 68)
  - Council tax is no longer pledged to be halved, but it would be cut “significantly” (pg 80)
  - The pledge to give priority in public services to ‘aboriginal Britons’ that was in the 2005 manifesto doesn’t appear in the 2010 manifesto. It isn’t clear whether it has been dropped entirely or just hushed up
  - Their policy to break up the supermarkets has been downgraded, although they are still a target of BNP ire. Instead “a special tax of one percent of turnover [will be levied] on the large supermarket group” (pg 45) and used to reduce council tax for small business

## 2.2 What hasn't changed?

The BNP are still committed to:

- Censor popular television shows (pg 45).
- Put the media under greater “democratic ... control” (pg 43)
- Bring back the death penalty (pg 48)
- Introduce extensive tariffs (pg 76)
- Introduce a clause-28 proscription against “the promotion of racial integration in schools and the media” (pg 22)
- Withdraw from Afghanistan and NATO (pg 4)
- End all foreign aid (pg 9)

### **3 The BNP's spending commitments**

In their manifesto the BNP commit to spend more on:

- Defence spending 1% above inflation for the next five years (pg 4)
- A voluntary resettlement programme – using the foreign aid budget (pg 21)
- Border controls (pg 21)
- Create an English parliament (pg 39)
- Create a pan-British parliament (pg 39)
- The NHS – using the foreign aid budget (pg 50)
- “Reverse budget cuts on education” (pg 53)
- Increased investment in the public transport system including the introduction of a “high speed 200 mph magnetic levitation inter-city rail network” (pg 57)
- Research into renewable energy systems (pg 61)
- Increase nuclear power generation to 40% of UK’s energy requirements (pg 61)
- Public housing (pg 66)
- Subsidies to engineering and science students (pg 69)
- Increase the state pension to £150 a week (pg 84)
- “Massive investment in technology universities” (pg 88)

To cut spending:

- Withdraw from Afghanistan (pg 13)
- Recall troops from Germany (pg 14)
- “Abolish all departments, agencies or other agencies of government whose sole and specific function is to attend to the interests of ethnic minorities” (pg 22)
- Leave the EU (pg 28) - £10 bn
- “Access to education, the NHS, benefits, council houses and pensions will only be available to the British people and those who have paid into the welfare system” (pg 36)
- Abolish ID cards
- End “health tourism” (pg 50)
- Foreign aid (pg 64)
- Reduce annual allowance for tax relief on pension contributions from £230,000 to £75,000 (pg 84)
- Raise age of retirement to 68 (pg 84)

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To increase taxes on:

- To increase duty on alcohol in supermarkets (pg 46)
- ‘Level playing field’ tax on companies that outsource (pg 73)
- “selective tariffs on the imports of goods from the Third World” (pg 76)

To cut taxes on:

- Business tax relief for local pubs (pg 46)
- Duty on alcohol sold in pubs (pg 46)
- Abolish student fees (pg 54)
- Fuel duty (pg 57)
- Road fund licence (pg 58)
- Carbon taxes (pg 62)
- Personal non-taxable allowance raised to £12,500 (pg 68)
- Inheritance tax level to £1 million (pg 68)
- Council tax (pg 68)

#### 4 Adding up the BNP's spending commitments

The BNP manifesto contains very few specific details or numbers. Even under the most generous of interpretations however, taking their own dubious estimates literally and ignoring wider effects on the bond market or macroeconomic stability, there is still a huge hole in the BNP's spending plans, with seemingly no recognition of the current deficit.

The BNP's cuts	(£ bn)	The BNP's commitments	(£ bn)
Global warming taxes	18	Removing the deficit	100
Asylum	4	Raising income tax threshold to £12,500	20
EU membership	15	Raising inheritance tax to £1 million	3.1
Foreign aid	9.1	A 1% in real terms rise in defence spending	0.4
Immigration	13	Abolishing student fees	2
War in Afghanistan	4.5	Triple counting foreign aid	18.2
'Politically correct' social engineering projects"	3		<b>Net</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£66.6bn</b>		<b>£143.7 bn - £77 bn</b>

- The BNP claims that it wishes to return the debt to GDP ratio to 30-40% (pg 71). At a minimum to achieve this, they would need to eliminate the structural deficit which is in the order of £100 bn.<sup>6</sup>
- Some policies we can give numbers on:
  - A 1% in real terms rise in defence spending for five years would cost around £0.4 bn<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> The OECD calculated in 2009 that the structural deficit was 7.2% of GDP  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8004567.stm>

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- The cost of raising the income tax threshold to £12,500 would be in the order of £20 bn<sup>8</sup>.
  - Raising inheritance tax to £1 million would cost £3.1 bn a year<sup>9</sup>.
  - Abolishing student fees would cost £2 bn a year<sup>10</sup>.
  - The BNP seems to have promised to use the £9.1 bn foreign aid budget three times over – on resettlement programmes, on increasing wages in the NHS, and in dropping British debt. They need to find another £18.2 bn in order to fully fund their plans.
  - In other words, just at looking at these policies the BNP needs to find at least in the order of £50 bn to fund their plans – and this is on top of the £100 bn structural deficit.
- The BNP claims they can claim this money through (using their numbers<sup>11</sup>):
    - £18 bn spent on “global warming”.
    - £13 bn spent on immigration.
    - £4 bn spent on asylum.
    - £15 bn spent on EU membership.
    - £9.1 bn spent on foreign aid.
    - £4.5 bn spent on the war in Afghanistan.
    - “billions spent on ‘politically correct’ social engineering projects” [let’s generously assume £3 bn].
    - In total, this comes to £66.6 bn.
  - If you take into account the many policies that on top of the £50 bn we haven’t enough detail to take account of (including increases in the education budget, border controls, public housing and a new nuclear power programme) it seems in reality unlike they’d have much change left out of their £66 bn. A more plausible figure for the shortfall in their numbers would be closer to £100 bn.

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<sup>7</sup> The defence budget is currently £44bn (source: [ukpublicspending.co.uk](http://ukpublicspending.co.uk))

<sup>8</sup> In 2008, the Adam Smith Institute calculated that raising the threshold to £12,000 would cost £18.9 bn (source: <http://www.adamsmith.org/publications/economy/why-alistair-darling-should-raise-the-personal-allowance-200811242484/>)

<sup>9</sup> This is the same costing as for the Tory policy. Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1564767/Tories-to-hike-inheritance-tax-threshold-to-1m.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.centreforum.org/assets/pubs/times-up.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> This is just for convenience, as most of these numbers are highly dubious. For example, most government estimates claim that immigration for example is fiscally neutral

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- And none of this takes into account other huge losses to the exchequer:
  - Reduced tax take as British companies flee to New York or Tokyo.
  - An increased risk premium as the international bond market takes fright.
  - The BNP's programme to renationalise public utilities.
- There are ways that the BNP could attempt to pay for some of this. But all of them would impose misery on ordinary world families:
  - Inflict huge cuts to public services.
  - Return us to double digit levels of inflation and interest rates in an attempt to inflate away the debt.
  - Introduce enormous raises to other taxes such as VAT, tariffs or National Insurance.

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For more information, see our new report **Britain under the BNP** available from [www.nothingbritish.com](http://www.nothingbritish.com)



**Any questions?** We can provide clarification and further information on whatever you need. Call us at 020 3397 0100 or email on [election@nothingbritish.com](mailto:election@nothingbritish.com)